EIS000420

14 December 1999

RECEIVED

DEC 20 1999

DOE—Yucca Mountain
Wendy Dixon, EIS Project Manager
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
OCRWM
US Department of Energy
PO Box 30307, MS 010
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

Dear Ms. Dixon.

As a Nevadan, a professor, and a <u>concerned citizen</u>, I write to you with alarm regarding the DOE's EIS for Yucca Mountain. This doesn't look to me like a particularly helpful or even a particularly accurate document, and I have several specific concerns about it.

I think the EIS should have, but did not, do each of the following things:

- 2 1. Explore Shoshone land rights in the area concerned; I believe we have a moral and legal obligation to better understand Shoshone land claims before moving ahead with YM. This concern should absolutely be reflected in the EIS.
- 2. Analyze the considerable negative environmental consequences that may be associated with specific routes along which nuclear waste would travel to YM; how can the EIS help us to measure the actual risks of implementing YM when it ignores so important a consideration?
- 3. Explain why, given how common radioactive leakage has been at other sites, the DOE expects YM to be so certainly safe; it would seem to me that the pattern of evidence suggests otherwise.
- 4. Finally, as a Nevadan, I don't mind saying how angry it makes me that DOE wants our state to be the place where one of the nation's most dangerous problems gets hidden away. Who elected Nevadans responsible for nuclear waste produced in other places? To put us at risk to make safe the people who produced this waste isn't right.
- I encourage you, then, to go back to the drawing board and come up with an EIS that more accurately reflects the legitimate concerns that we, as Nevadans, have about the dangers YM would expose us to. The EIS we have here is inaccurate, incomplete, and unacceptable.

Sincerely

Dr. Michael P. Branch 11035 Wagon Ho

Reno, NV 89506

0